

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Hunter Sinclair, et al.

Title: CONNECTION MANAGER AND METHODS OF CONNECTION
MANAGEMENT

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Commissioner for Patents

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APPEAL BRIEF

Honorable Commissioner:

This is an Appeal Brief filed pursuant to 37 CFR § 41.37 in response to the Final Office Action of July 25, 2008 (hereinafter the “Final Office Action”), pursuant to the Notice of Appeal filed October 27, 2008, and in response to the Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review of December 24, 2008.

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest in accordance with 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(i) is the patent assignee, AT&T Intellectual Property I, L.P. (formerly SBC Knowledge Ventures, L.P.).

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals or interferences within the meaning of 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(ii).

STATUS OF CLAIMS

In accordance with 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(iii); thirty two (32) claims were filed in the original application in this case. Claims 33-37 were added during prosecution. Claims 2-5 and 15-18 were cancelled during prosecution. Claims 1, 6-14, and 19-37 are rejected in the Final Office Action. Claims 1, 6-14, and 19-37 are on appeal.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

In accordance with 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(iv); no amendments were submitted after final rejection. The claims as currently presented are included in the Appendix of Claims that accompanies this Appeal Brief.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Appellant provides the following concise summary of the claimed subject matter according to 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(v). This summary includes a concise explanation of the subject matter defined in each of the independent claims involved in the appeal and includes references to the specification by paragraph number and to the drawings by figure number. The independent claims involved in this appeal are claims 1, 14, 25 and 30. Claims 1 and 25 are system claims. Claims 14 and 30 are a method claims.

Claim 1 recites a connection manager. The system of claim 1 includes a dialer configured to interact with a modem to provide a connection to a service provider (Paragraphs 0006, 0008, 0009, 0022, 0024; FIGs. 1-3). The system of claim 1 also includes a graphical user interface configured to manipulate parameters associated with the connection, the graphical user interface including a form component wherein the form component includes a text entry component (Paragraphs 0006, 0023, 0030; FIG 3). The system of claim 1 also includes an advice window configured to be displayed with the graphical user interface in response to a user entry of text into the text entry component, wherein the advice window is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions (Paragraphs 0031, 0053, 0054, 0056; FIGs. 11, 12A).

Claim 14 recites a method of connection management. The method of claim 14 includes displaying a graphical user interface, the graphical user interface including a form component, wherein the form component includes a text entry component (Paragraphs 0006, 0023, and 0030; FIGs. 3 and 7). The method of claim 14 also includes displaying an advice window in response to a user entry of text into the text entry component, wherein the advice window is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions (Paragraphs 0031, 0053, 0054, and 0056; FIGs. 11 and 12A). The method of claim 14 also includes accessing a dialer, the dialer configured to direct a modem to connect to a service provider (Paragraphs 0004, 0008, 0009, 0021, 0022, and 0024; FIGs. 1-3).

Claim 25 recites a connection manager. The system of claim 25 includes a dialer to interact with a modem to provide a connection to a service provider (Paragraphs 0006, 0008, 0009, 0021, 0022, and 0024; FIGs. 1-3). The system of claim 25 also includes an error handling component configured to apply diagnostic logic to an error associated with the dialer (Paragraphs 0027, 0054, 0056, and 0060; FIGs. 3 and 11). The system of claim 25 also includes an error handling user interface configured to display a query and acquire a response from a user, wherein the query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions when applying the diagnostic logic to address the error associated with the dialer (Paragraphs 0054, 0060, 0071, and 0074; FIGs. 11, 14A-C, 17A-C, and 19A and B). The system of claim 25 also includes an error handling message proxy configured to provide communication between the error handling component and the error handling user interface (Paragraph 54; FIG 11).

Claim 30 recites a method to manage connecting a computation device to a service provider. The method of claim 30 includes initiating an error handling component associated with a dialer, the dialer configured to interact with a modem to provide a connection to a service provider (Paragraphs 0006, 0008, 0009, 0021, 0022, 0024, 0027, 0054, 0056, and 0060; FIGs. 1-3 and 12-14). The method of claim 30 also includes detecting an error associated with the dialer using the error handling component (Paragraphs 0059, 0060, and 0067; FIGs. 13, 14A-C and 16A-C). The method of claim 30 also includes directing an error handling user interface to display a user query, wherein the directing is performed by the error handling component, wherein the user query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions to address the error associated with the dialer

(Paragraphs 0054, 0060, 0071, and 0074; FIGs. 11, 14A-C, 17A-C, and 19A and B). The method of claim 30 also includes performing a parameter test using the error handling component in response to a user input associated with the error handling user interface (Paragraphs 0009, 0022, and 0053; FIGs. 2 and 10).

GROUND OF REJECTION

In accordance with 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(vi), Appellant provides the following concise statement for each ground of rejection:

1. Claims 1, 9-14 and 25-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,615,276 (“Mastrianni”), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,799,286 (“Evans”), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,778,651 (“Jost”) and further in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0182556 (“Sunder”).
2. Claims 6 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mastrianni, in view of Evans, Jost, and Sunder and further in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0036679 (“Emerson”).
3. Claims 7, 8, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mastrianni, in view of Evans, Jost, and Sunder, and further in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0148362 (“Friedman”).

ARGUMENT

Appellant presents the following argument pursuant to 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(vii) regarding the grounds of rejection on appeal in the present case.

**Argument Regarding The First Ground Of Rejection On Appeal:
Claims 1, 9-14 and 25-37 Are Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)
Over U.S. Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, and Sunder**

The Office has rejected claims 1, 9-14 and 25-37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,615,276 (“Mastrianni”), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,799,286 (“Evans”), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,778,651 (“Jost”) and further in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0182556 (“Sunder”). Appellant respectfully traverse the rejections.

The cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost and Sunder, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. For example, the cited portions of Mastrianni fail to disclose or suggest that the advice window is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions, as in claim 1. In contrast to claim 1, the cited portions of Mastrianni describe an input screen that allows a user to specify information such as an “account name, user-id and password information for the account 806.” *See* Mastrianni, Fig. 8 and col. 7, lines 14-20. As disclosed in Mastrianni, an advice window is not selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions, as in claim 1.

Also, the cited portions of Evans fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. Instead, the cited portions of Evans describe a non-modal, error balloon that is selectively displayed within a graphical user interface display in an attempt to assist a user logging onto a computer. *See* Evans, col. 3, lines 52-56. Further, if there is an error, the user is told of the error and is provided with a suggestion about retyping the password with the caps lock key off. *See* Evans, col. 3, lines 56-58. Displaying an error balloon suggesting that a user retype a password is different from selectively displaying an advice window after a user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions. Therefore, the cited portions of Evans fail to disclose or suggest that the advice window is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions, as in claim 1.

Further, the cited portions of Jost fail to disclose the specific combination of claim 1. Instead, the cited portions of Jost describe providing a visual alert to the user when the keyboard is in the caps lock mode of operation by presenting either or both of a unique text insertion

cursor or a unique mouse text pointer in place of the standard text insertion cursor or mouse text pointer. *See* Evans, Abstract. Providing a visual alert in the event that the keyboard is in the caps lock mode of operation is different from selectively displaying an advice window after a user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions. Therefore, the cited portions of Jost fail to disclose or suggest that the advice window is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions, as in claim 1.

In making the rejection of claim 1, the Office cited Figures 6, 8, and 15-19 and paragraphs 79 and 88 of Sunder as disclosing that the advice window is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of domain names. Figure 6 is described as “a graphical end-user interface presented to the customer to allow an input of basic settings” and shows a field with the descriptive text “Pre-fill domain name to:” next to it. *See* Sunder, Figure 6 and paragraph 16. The web page illustrated in Figure 6 gives the customer the option to enter a default authentication domain that would allow the end user to enter only an end user name and password to be connected to a network without specifying a domain name. *See* Sunder, paragraph 58. Figure 6 and paragraph 58 that describes Figure 6 discloses what happens if an incorrect domain name is entered, but fails to disclose an advice window that is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions, as in claim 1.

Further, Figure 8 is described as “a graphical user-interface presented to the customer to allow specification of dialer connection actions” but does not disclose or suggest that an advice window is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions. Sunder, Figure 8, paragraph 18. Figure 15 is described as “a flow chart detailing a phone book generation process preformed by a phone book generation tool” but does not disclose or suggest an advice window that is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions. Sunder, Figure 15, paragraph 25. Figure 16 is described as “a diagram of system architecture” but does not disclose or suggest an advice window that is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions. Sunder, Figure 16, paragraph 26. Figure 17 is described as “a graphical end-user interface presented on a client machine that constitutes a main dialog box of a dialer” but does not disclose or suggest an advice

window that is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions. Sunder, Figure 17, paragraph 27. Figure 18 is described as “a graphical end-user interface presented on the client matching that allows an end-user to specify dial properties” but does not disclose or suggest an advice window that is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions. Sunder, Figure 18, paragraph 28.

Figure 19 is described as “a graphical end-user interface presented on the client machine that prompts the end-user for end-user information”. Sunder, Figure 19, paragraph 29. The graphical end-user interface “is automatically displayed if the end user dials an access point without providing all the required end-user information.” Sunder, paragraph 94. Displaying a graphical end-user interface if all the required end-user information is not provided is not the same as an advice window that is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions. As disclosed in Sunder, if all the required end-user information is provided, then the graphical end-user interface disclosed in Figure 19 will not be displayed, regardless of whether or not the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions. Neither Figure 19 nor paragraph 94 that describes Figure 19 discloses what happens if an incorrect domain name is entered and neither disclose an advice window that is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions, as in claim 1.

Paragraph 79 of Sunder discloses a customization tool that updates multiple copies of a network connection application such as a dialer where during the update process the dialer compares a list of files stored locally and with the list retrieved from a server and if the lists do not match, the dialer retrieves the affected files from the update server. *See* Sunder, paragraph 79. Paragraph 79 of Sunder does not disclose an advice window that is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions, as in claim 1.

Paragraph 88 of Sunder discloses a phone book generation tool that retrieves a complete list of POPs from a server and applies customer specified filters to the list of POPs to create a phone book tree. *See* Sunder, paragraph 88. Neither cited paragraph 88 of Sunder nor any of the other portions of Sunder disclose an advice window that is selectively displayed after the user

entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions, as in claim 1. Therefore, the cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, and Sunder, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. Hence, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 9-13 depend from claim 1. Therefore, claims 9-13 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 1.

Further, dependent claim 9 includes additional features not found in the cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, and Sunder, individually or in combination. Specifically, the cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, and Sunder, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest that each phone number in a list of phone numbers have an associated priority number, as in claim 9. The Office admits that the cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, and Jost fail to disclose or suggest each phone number in a list of phone numbers having an associated priority number. *See Office Action*, page 7.

In making the rejection of claim 9, the Office cites paragraph 30, 31, 53, 57, Figures 2-5, and the Abstract of Sunder as disclosing each phone number in the list of phone numbers having an associated priority number. However, paragraph 30 describes Figure 20 and paragraph 31 describes Figures 21 and 22. *See Sunder*, paragraphs 30 and 31. Figures 20, 21, and 22 disclose a dialog box that the end-user may use to compile or modify a list of favorite network access points but the access points do not have an associated priority number. Therefore, Figures 20, 21, and 22 do not disclose or suggest each phone number in a list of phone numbers having an associated priority number. Paragraph 53 of Sunder discloses a customization tool that is a web application developed utilizing HTML, JavaScript, and JavaServlets, but paragraph 53 does not disclose or suggest each phone number in a list of phone numbers having an associated priority number. *See Sunder*, paragraph 53. Paragraph 57 of Sunder discloses features that may be included in a dialer profile such as “custom corporate logos, connection actions, addition and removal of access points (POPs), and pricing setting” but paragraph 57 does not disclose or suggest each phone number in a list of phone numbers having an associated priority number. *Sunder*, paragraph 57. Also, neither Figures 2-5 nor the Abstract of Sunder disclose or suggest each phone number in a list of phone numbers having an associated priority number, as in claim 9. Thus, Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, and Sunder, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 9, and therefore, claim 9 is allowable. Claims 10-13 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 9.

The cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost and Sunder, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 14. For example, the cited portions of Mastrianni fail to disclose or suggest that an advice window is selectively displayed when the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions, as in claim 14. In contrast to claim 14, the cited portions of Mastrianni describe a graphical user interface associated with a connection manager. *See* Mastrianni, col. 3, lines 50-52. Further, the cited portions of Mastrianni describe an input screen that allows a user to specify information such as an “account name, user-id and password information for the account 806.” Mastrianni, Fig. 8 and col. 7, lines 14-20. The cited portions of Mastrianni fail to disclose or suggest displaying an advice window in response to a user entry of text into the text entry component, where the advice window is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions, as in claim 14.

Also, the cited portions of Evans fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 14. Instead, the cited portions of Evans describe a non-modal, error balloon that is selectively displayed within a graphical user interface display on a display in an attempt to assist a user logging onto a computer. *See* Evans, col. 3, lines 52-56. Further, if there is an error, the user is told of the error and is provided with a suggestion about retyping the password with the caps lock key off. *See* Evans, col. 3, lines 56-58. Displaying an error balloon suggesting that a user retype a password is different from selectively displaying an advice window after a user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions. Therefore, the cited portions of Evans fail to disclose or suggest an advice window configured to be displayed with a graphical user interface in response to a user entry of text into a text entry component, where the advice window is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions, as in claim 14.

Further, the cited portions of Jost fail to disclose the specific combination of claim 14. Instead, the cited portions of Jost describe providing a visual alert to the user when the keyboard is in the caps lock mode of operation by presenting either or both of a unique text insertion cursor or a unique mouse text pointer in place of the standard text insertion cursor or mouse text pointer. *See* Evans, Abstract. Providing a visual alert in the event that the keyboard is in the caps lock mode of operation is different from selectively displaying an advice window after a user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions. Therefore,

the cited portions of Jost fail to disclose or suggest that the advice window is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions, as in claim 14.

In making the rejection of claim 14, the Office cited Figures 6, 8, and 15-19 and paragraphs 79 and 88 of Sunder as disclosing that the advice window is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of domain names. Figure 6 is described as “a graphical end-user interface presented to the customer to allow an input of basic settings” and shows a field with the descriptive text “Pre-fill domain name to:” next to it. *See* Sunder, Figure 6 and paragraph 16. The web page illustrated in Figure 6 gives the customer the option to enter a default authentication domain that would allow the end user to enter only an end user name and password to be connected to a network without specifying a domain name. *See* Sunder, paragraph 58. Neither Figure 6 nor paragraph 58 that describes Figure 6 disclose what happens if an incorrect domain name is entered and neither disclose an advice window that is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions, as in claim 14.

Further, Figures 8 and 15-19 do not disclose or suggest an advice window that is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions. Therefore, the cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, and Sunder, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 14. Hence, claim 14 is allowable. Claims 22-24 were not specifically rejected in paragraph 1 of the Office Action but were discussed as if they were and therefore will be treated as if specifically rejected in paragraph 1. Claims 22-24 depend from claim 14. Therefore, claims 22-24 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 14.

Further, dependent claim 22 includes additional features not found in the cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, and Sunder, individually or in combination. Specifically, the cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, and Sunder, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest that each phone number in a list of phone numbers has an associated priority number, as in claim 22. The Office admits that Mastrianni, Evans, and Jost fail to disclose or suggest each phone number in a list of phone numbers having an associated priority number. *See* Office Action, page 11.

In making the rejection of claim 22, the Office cites paragraph 30, 31, 53, 57, Figures 2-5, and the Abstract of Sunder. However, paragraph 30 describes Figure 20 and paragraph 31 describes Figures 21 and 22. *See* Sunder, paragraphs 30 and 31. Figures 20, 21, and 22 disclose a dialog box that the end-user may use to compile or modify a list of favorite network access points but the access points are phone number and the access points do not have an associated priority number. Therefore, Figures 20, 21, and 22 do not disclose or suggest each phone number in a list of phone numbers having an associated priority number. Paragraph 53 of Sunder discloses a customization tool that is a web application developed utilizing HTML, JavaScript, and JavaServlets. Paragraph 53 does not disclose or suggest each phone number in a list of phone numbers having an associated priority number. *See* Sunder, paragraph 53. Paragraph 57 of Sunder discloses features that may be included in a dialer profile such as “custom corporate logos, connection actions, addition and removal of access points (POPs), and pricing setting”. Paragraph 57 does not disclose or suggest each phone number in a list of phone numbers having an associated priority number. Sunder, paragraph 57. Also, neither Figures 2-5 nor the Abstract of Sunder disclose or suggest each phone number in a list of phone numbers having an associated priority number, as in claim 22. Thus, Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, and Sunder, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 22, and therefore, claim 22 is allowable. Claims 23 and 24 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 22.

The cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, and Sunder, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 25. For example, the cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, and Sunder fail to disclose or suggest a connection manager wherein the query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions when applying the diagnostic logic to address the error associated with the dialer, as in claim 25. The Office admits that Mastrianni, Evans, and Jost fail to disclose or suggest a connection manager wherein the query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions when applying the diagnostic logic to address the error associated with the dialer. *See* Office Action, page 14.

In making the rejection of claim 25, the Office cites paragraphs 16-25, 46, 57-59, 80, and 81 and Figures 3-7 of Sunder as disclosing a connection manager wherein the query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one

or more actions when applying the diagnostic logic to address the error associated with the dialer. Paragraphs 16-25 are brief descriptions of Figures 6-15 respectively and Figures 6-15 do not disclose or suggest a connection manager wherein the query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions when applying the diagnostic logic to address the error associated with the dialer.

Paragraph 46 contains one word, “Architecture” and it is unclear how the word “Architecture” discloses or suggests the specific combination of claim 25. Paragraph 57 of Sunder discloses features that may be included in a dialer profile such as “custom corporate logos, connection actions, addition and removal of access points (POPs), and pricing setting” but does not disclose or suggest a connection manager wherein the query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions. Sunder, paragraph 57. Paragraph 58 of Sunder discloses a web page that gives the customer the option to enter a default authentication domain that would allow the end user to enter only an end user name and password to be connected to a network without specifying a domain name. *See* Sunder, paragraph 58. Cited paragraph 58 of Sunder does not disclose a connection manager wherein the query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions when applying the diagnostic logic to address the error associated with the dialer, as in claim 25. Paragraph 59 of Sunder discloses a web page that may prompt a customer to specify if prices will be displayed next to each dial-in number when the dialer is invoked by an end-user, but does not disclose or suggest a connection manager wherein the query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions. *See* Sunder, paragraph 59. Paragraph 80 of Sunder discloses a case where the customer may instruct the customization system not to update the dialer automatically unless instructed otherwise, but does not disclose or suggest a connection manager wherein the query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions. *See* Sunder, paragraph 80. Paragraph 81 only contains the heading, “Methodology: Phonebook Generation” and it is unclear how the heading discloses or suggests the specific combination of claim 25.

The cited portions of Sunder describe the reporting of errors and as disclosed in Sunder, an error is simply reported to the user. The user is not asked for permission of any kind for a subsequent action. Reporting of an error differs from asking for permission and therefore, the

cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, and Sunder fail to disclose or suggest a connection manager wherein the query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions when applying the diagnostic logic to address the error associated with the dialer, as in claim 25. Hence, claim 25 is allowable. Claims 26-29 and 33-37 depend from claim 25. Therefore, claims 26-29 and 33-37 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 25.

Further, the cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, and Sunder fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 28. For example, the cited portions of Sunder fail to disclose or suggest a method comprising manipulating a parameter using an error handling component in response to a user action associated with the error handling user interface. In Sunder, error codes are returned to the user upon a connection attempt. *See* Sunder, paragraph 99. The cited portions of Sunder do not disclose or suggest the correction or change of a parameter value in response to a user action. The Office admits that Mastrianni, Evans, and Josh do not disclose all of the features of claim 28. *See* Office Action, page 20. Hence, claim 28 is also allowable.

The cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, and Sunder, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 30. For example, the cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, and Sunder fail to disclose or suggest a method wherein the user query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions to address the error associated with the dialer, as in claim 30. The Office admits that cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, and Jost fail to disclose or suggest a method wherein the user query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions to address the error associated with the dialer. *See* Office Action, page 23.

In making the rejection of claim 30, the Office cites paragraphs 16-25, 46, 57-59, 80, and 81 and Figures 3-7 of Sunder as disclosing a connection manager wherein the query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions when applying the diagnostic logic to address the error associated with the dialer. Paragraphs 16-25 are brief descriptions of Figures 6-15 respectively. Figures 6-15 do not disclose or suggest a connection manager wherein the query is configured to ask permission from

a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions when applying the diagnostic logic to address the error associated with the dialer.

Paragraph 46 contains one word, “Architecture” and it is unclear how the word “Architecture” discloses or suggests the specific combination of claim 30. Paragraph 57 of Sunder discloses features that may be included in a dialer profile such as “custom corporate logos, connection actions, addition and removal of access points (POPs), and pricing setting” but does not disclose or suggest a connection manager wherein the query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions. Sunder, paragraph 57. Paragraph 58 of Sunder discloses a web page that gives the customer the option to enter a default authentication domain that would allow the end user to enter only an end user name and password to be connected to a network without specifying a domain name. *See* Sunder, paragraph 58. Cited paragraph 58 of Sunder does not disclose a connection manager wherein the query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions when applying the diagnostic logic to address the error associated with the dialer, as in claim 30. Paragraph 59 of Sunder discloses a web page that may prompt a customer to specify if prices will be displayed next to each dial-in number when the dialer is invoked by an end-user, but does not disclose or suggest a connection manager wherein the query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions. *See* Sunder, paragraph 59. Paragraph 80 of Sunder discloses a case where the customer may instruct the customization system not to update the dialer automatically unless instructed otherwise, but does not disclose or suggest a connection manager wherein the query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions. *See* Sunder, paragraph 80. Paragraph 81 only contains the heading, “Methodology: Phonebook Generation” and it is unclear how the heading discloses or suggests the specific combination of claim 30.

In Sunder, error codes are returned to the user upon a connection attempt. *See* Sunder, paragraph 99. The cited portions of Sunder describe the reporting of errors and as disclosed in Sunder, an error is simply reported to the user. The user is not asked for permission of any kind for a subsequent action. Reporting of an error differs from asking for permission and therefore, the cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, and Sunder fail to disclose or suggest a connection manager wherein the query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error

handling component to perform one or more actions when applying the diagnostic logic to address the error associated with the dialer, as in claim 30. Hence, claim 30 is allowable. Claims 31 and 32 depend from claim 30. Therefore, claims 31 and 32 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 30.

Further, the cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, and Sunder fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 31. For example, the cited portions of Sunder fail to disclose or suggest a method comprising manipulating a parameter using an error handling component in response to a user action associated with the error handling user interface. In Sunder, error codes are returned to the user upon a connection attempt. *See* Sunder, paragraph 99. The cited portions of Sunder do not disclose or suggest the correction or change of a parameter value in response to a user action. The Office admits that Mastrianni, Evans, and Josh do not disclose all of the features of claim 31. *See* Office Action, page 20. Hence, claim 31 is also allowable.

**Argument Regarding The First Ground Of Rejection On Appeal:
Claims 6 and 19 Are Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)
Over U.S. Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, Sunder, and Emerson**

The Office has rejected claims 6 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mastrianni, in view of Evans, Jost, and Sunder and further in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0036679 (“Emerson”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claim 6 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependence from claim 1. In addition, claim 6 includes additional features not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, Sunder, and Emerson. For example, the cited portions of Mastrianni fail to disclose or suggest an advice window configured for display when the form component is available for manipulation by the user and before a button is selected by the user, as in claim 6. Instead, the cited portions of Mastrianni describe a series of user input interfaces that are successively reached upon clicking an “OK” button in the current user input interface. *See* Mastrianni, column 6, lines 24-27 and Figs. 6-18. In further contrast to claim 6, the cited portions of Evans describe displaying an error balloon only after the input field has been confirmed by the user

hitting ENTER or clicking “go.” *See* Evans, col. 4, lines 22-25. In further contrast to claim 6, the cited portions of Jost do not disclose or suggest an advice window.

In further contrast to claim 6, the cited portions of Sunder describe a graphical end-user interface that “is automatically displayed if the end user dials an access point without providing all the required end-user information”. Sunder, paragraph 94. As disclosed in Sunder, the graphical end-user interface is not automatically displayed before a button is selected by the user. In further contrast to claim 6, the cited portions of Emerson describe

“... the advice window configured for initial display when the form component is available for manipulation by the user but before the manipulated form component is selected by the user (e.g. providing an audible/visual indicator, alert and/or ‘message’ to the user that the keyboard state is in the “CAPS LOCK” mode when the user begins to type in the input text component.)” Office Action, page 33, (*citing* Emerson paragraphs 17, 87-89, 92-95, 99-101, 128-129, and Figures 7-9.) (emphasis added)

The Office Admits that the cited portions of Emerson disclose an advice window displayed when the user begins to type. *See* Office Action, page 33. Because typing requires the user to select a button to type, Emerson fails to disclose or suggest displaying an advice window before a button is selected by the user. Therefore, the cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, Sunder, and Emerson fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 6. For this additional reason, claim 6 is also allowable.

Claim 19 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependence from claim 14. In addition, claim 19 includes additional features not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, Sunder, and Emerson. For example, the cited portions of Mastrianni fail to disclose or suggest an advice window configured for display when the form component is available for manipulation by the user and before a button is selected by the user, as in claim 19. Instead, the cited portions of Mastrianni describe a series of user input interfaces that are successively reached upon clicking an “OK” button in the current user input interface. *See* Mastrianni, column 6, lines 24-27 and Figs. 6-18. In further contrast to claim 19, the cited portions of Evans describe displaying an error balloon only after the input field has been confirmed by the user hitting ENTER or clicking “go.” *See* Evans, col. 4, lines 22-25. In further

contrast to claim 19, the cited portions of Jost do not disclose or suggest an advice window. In further contrast to claim 19, the cited portions of Sunder describe a graphical end-user interface that “is automatically displayed if the end user dials an access point without providing all the required end-user information”. Sunder, paragraph 94. As disclosed in Sunder, the graphical end-user interface is not automatically displayed before a button is selected by the user.

In further contrast to claim 19, the cited portions of Emerson describe

“... the advice window configured for initial display when the form component is available for manipulation by the user but before the manipulated form component is selected by the user (e.g. providing an audible/visual indicator, alert and/or ‘message’ to the user that the keyboard state is in the “CAPS LOCK” mode when the user begins to type in the input text component.”) Office Action, page 33, (*citing* Emerson paragraphs 17, 87-89, 92-95, 99-101, 128-129, and Figures 7-9.) (emphasis added)

The Office Admits that the cited portions of Emerson disclose an advice window displayed when the user begins to type. *See* Office Action, page 33. Because typing requires the user to select a button to type, Emerson fails to disclose or suggest displaying an advice window before a button is selected by the user. Therefore, the cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, Sunder, and Emerson fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 19. For this additional reason, claim 19 is also allowable.

**Argument Regarding The First Ground Of Rejection On Appeal:
Claims 7, 8, 20 and 21 Are Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)
Over U.S. Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, Sunder, and Friedman**

The Office has rejected claims 7, 8, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mastrianni, in view of Evans, Jost, and Sunder, and further in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0148362 (“Friedman”). Appellant respectfully traverses the rejections.

As explained above, the cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, and Sunder fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1, from which claims 7 and 8 depend. The cited portions of Friedman do not disclose or suggest the features of claim 1 not disclosed or

suggested by the cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, and Sunder. For example, the cited portions of Friedman fail to disclose or suggest an advice window that is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions, as in claim 1, from which claims 7 and 8 depend. Instead, the cited portions of Friedman describe systems and methods that deliver functionality of many different media players via a single interface. *See* Friedman, paragraph 2. Therefore, claims 7 and 8 are allowable.

As explained above, the cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, and Sunder fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 14, from which claims 20 and 21 depend. The cited portions of Friedman do not disclose or suggest the features of claim 14 not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Mastrianni, Evans, Jost, and Sunder. For example, the cited portions of Friedman fail to disclose or suggest an advice window that is selectively displayed after a user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions, as in claim 14, from which claims 20 and 21 depend. Instead, the cited portions of Friedman describe systems and methods that deliver functionality of many different media players via a single interface. *See* Friedman, paragraph 2. Therefore, claims 20 and 21 are allowable.

**APPENDIX OF CLAIMS
ON APPEAL IN PATENT APPLICATION OF
HUNTER SINCLAIR, ET AL., SERIAL NO. 10/616,515
IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(viii)**

1. A connection manager comprising:
a dialer configured to interact with a modem to provide a connection to a service provider;
a graphical user interface configured to manipulate parameters associated with the connection, the graphical user interface including a form component, wherein the form component includes a text entry component; and
an advice window configured to be displayed with the graphical user interface in response to a user entry of text into the text entry component, wherein the advice window is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions.
2. (Canceled).
3. (Canceled).
4. (Canceled).
5. (Canceled).
6. The connection manager of claim 1, wherein the form component further comprises a button, wherein the advice window is configured for display when the form component is available for manipulation by the user and before the button is selected by the user.
7. The connection manager of claim 1, wherein the advice window minimizes upon expiration of a time period.

8. The connection manager of claim 1, wherein the advice window minimizes to an icon.
9. The connection manager of claim 1, further comprising:
a list of phone numbers retrievable from a memory device and associated with the service provider, each phone number in the list of phone numbers having an associated priority number.
10. The connection manager of claim 9, wherein the phone numbers in the list of phone numbers are sorted in accordance with the priority number and wherein the phone numbers in the order as sorted are sequentially used in attempts to connect to the service provider.
11. The connection manager of claim 9, further comprising:
an update tool configured to interact with the service provider to manipulate the list of phone numbers.
12. The connection manager of claim 11, wherein phone numbers in the list of phone numbers are edited.
13. The connection manager of claim 11, wherein priority numbers associated with the list of phone numbers are edited using the update tool.
14. A method of connection management, the method comprising:
displaying a graphical user interface, the graphical user interface including a form component, wherein the form component includes a text entry component;
displaying an advice window in response to a user entry of text into the text entry component, wherein the advice window is selectively displayed after the user entry of text fails to match one of a plurality of known domain name extensions;
and
accessing a dialer, the dialer configured to direct a modem to connect to a service provider.

15. (Canceled).
16. (Canceled).
17. (Canceled).
18. (Canceled).
19. The method of claim 14, wherein the form component further comprises a selectable button, wherein the advice window is configured for display when the form component is available for manipulation by the user and before the button is selected by the user.
20. The method of claim 14, further comprising minimizing the advice window upon expiration of a time period.
21. The method of claim 20, wherein the advice window minimizes to an icon.
22. The method of claim 14, further comprising sorting a list of phone numbers to produce a priority sorted list, each phone number in the list of phone numbers associated with an associated priority number, wherein the sorting is conducted in accordance with the priority numbers.
23. The method of claim 22, further comprising directing the dialer to dial a phone number from the priority sorted list.
24. The method of claim 22, further comprising:
activating an update tool configured to communicate with the service provider for the purpose of manipulating the list of phone numbers.

25. A connection manager comprising:
 - a dialer to interact with a modem to provide a connection to a service provider;
 - an error handling component configured to apply diagnostic logic to an error associated with the dialer;
 - an error handling user interface configured to display a query and acquire a response from a user, wherein the query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions when applying the diagnostic logic to address the error associated with the dialer; and
 - an error handling message proxy configured to provide communication between the error handling component and the error handling user interface.
26. The connection manager of claim 25, wherein the error handling component directs the error handling user interface to display a user query in response to detecting the error.
27. The connection manager of claim 25, wherein the error handling component performs a parameter test in response to a user action associated with the error handling user interface.
28. The connection manager of claim 25, wherein the error handling component changes a parameter value in response to a user action associated with the error handling user interface.
29. The connection manager of claim 25, wherein the error is selected from a group consisting of an authentication failure, a modem port availability failure, a port disconnection failure, a server response error, a line busy error, a no answer error, and a dial tone failure.

30. A method to manage connecting a computation device to a service provider, the method comprising:
initiating an error handling component associated with a dialer, the dialer configured to interact with a modem to provide a connection to a service provider;
detecting an error associated with the dialer using the error handling component;
directing an error handling user interface to display a user query, wherein the directing is performed by the error handling component, wherein the user query is configured to ask permission from a user to allow the error handling component to perform one or more actions to address the error associated with the dialer; and
performing a parameter test using the error handling component in response to a user input associated with the error handling user interface.
31. The method of claim 30, further comprising manipulating a parameter using the error handling component in response to a user action associated with the error handling user interface.
32. The method of claim 30, wherein the error is selected from a group consisting of an authentication failure, a modem port availability failure, a port disconnection failure, a server response error, a line busy error, a no answer error, and a dial tone failure.
33. The method of claim 14, wherein displaying the advice window comprises displaying a statement encouraging correction of the user entry of text.
34. The method of claim 14, wherein displaying the advice window comprises displaying a suggested alternative to the user entry of text.
35. The method of claim 14, wherein displaying the advice window comprises displaying an offer to change the user entry of text.

36. The method of claim 14, wherein displaying the advice window comprises displaying a list, wherein the list includes a plurality of alternatives.
37. The method of claim 14, further comprising automatically changing the user entry of text to a domain name extension when the user entry of text is substantially similar to the domain name extension.

**APPENDIX OF EVIDENCE
ON APPEAL IN PATENT APPLICATION OF
HUNTER SINCLAIR, ET AL., SERIAL NO. 10/616,515
IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(ix)**

In this case, there is no evidence submitted pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.130, 1.131, or 1.132, nor is there any other evidence entered by the Examiner and relied upon by the Appellant.

**RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX
IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(x)**

There are no decisions rendered by a court or the Board in any proceeding identified pursuant to 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(ii).

Conclusion of Appellant's Arguments

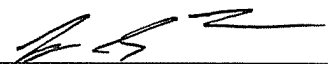
Appellant has pointed out specific features of the claims not disclosed, suggested, or rendered obvious by the cited portions of the references as applied in the Final Office Action.

In view of the arguments above, reversal on all grounds of rejection and an indication of the allowability of each of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

1-26-2007
Date



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